

8BIT

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALL 8-BIT COMPUTER USERS

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EDITOR'S COLUMN - ISSUE 12

Ho Hum, late again!

This time it was the Recent Reading section that occupied more time than was reasonable. That, and trying to squeeze in all the stuff I had to hand while still being true to those people who have paid for display advertisements and those organisations with whom I have a reciprocal advertising arrangement.

My soft-heartedness and the cries of anguish from the smaller publishers won me over so I *still* haven't cleared the backlog. At least this (latest) crisis has forced me to reconsider the font size of the small advertisements in the interest of cramming in a little more.

I am prepared to consider *your* opinion on the matter, but do not delay in sending it as I would like to get to work on the page templates long before the next deadline (15th July).

I hope you approve of my moving all the advertisements towards the back. I hate hunting through a magazine for a continued part of an article, and this way they can be read without breaks.

You will notice we have the first **Einstein User Group** coverage (from the low-budget front line) in this issue and more is to come, but I still feel guilty about the amount of **Spectrum** stuff I have not used yet and that the mighty **SAM** does not get a fair share of things.

Brian Watson

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HOME PUBLISHING - Part 3 Printers and Printing

The second part of this series covered what to look for in the hardware and software component parts of a suitable system. There is not one 'best buy' 8-bit computer for DTP work, any more than one model of car suits all drivers. The probability is that the computer you already have will turn out a very acceptable job which can be improved by buying the most appropriate software you can afford. The series assumes you are working towards a finished result on paper, although there is a case to be made for disk (or even, heaven help us, tape) magazines, and many of the production stages are similar in terms of compiling the content. However, paper has its own requirements and these are what we will address here.

In the simplest terms, the two extremes in terms of producing a finished publication from your text and/or pictures are (1) 'someone else does the lot' and (2) 'you do the lot'. Generally, the more you can do the cheaper it will be but this may be at the expense of the finished item's quality. If you can supply a copy bureau (or a friend with more sophisticated equipment than you have) with your information on disk, a very sophisticated end product can result and you will not have to spend time in printing off every page, compiling the sets of pages, and folding and stapling according to your budget. Probably to do most of the job preparatory work yourself is the best compromise.

One major part of getting the best possible result onto the page in a reasonable time is the printer you use. My first printer was a 9-pin dot matrix **Amstrad**-badged beast, and I kidded myself it was 'state of the art in home computing accessories.' Actually it wasn't, even in 1988. I seem to remember that the advertised number of fonts was justified by using every combination of pica, elite, italics, bold, and the ultimate printer euphemism 'near letter quality'. I discovered that this latter description meant "*almost* good enough to use for the letter to your bank manager providing your appeal for a higher overdraft does not matter very much".

When the **Amstrad 2160**'s main chip blew because I dared to wind on the paper without going 'off-line', I bought a **Star LC10** colour printer. This proved to be an excellent workhorse for many years. It was noisy but I didn't know that, having nothing but the **Amstrad** to compare it with, and the price of colour ribbons kept me using plain black ones most of the time. But the quality of the print it produced left the **Amstrad** miles behind again. In 1994 I treated myself to a **Canon BJ200** inkjet, which is what I use today. It is fast, quiet, produces good output (even in draft mode) and using refilled ink cartridges keeps the price down on that particular accessory. I will be covering cartridge refilling, as well as ribbon re-inking, in a follow-up article on 'office supplies for the home publisher'.

In my opinion a laser printer is still a little 'over the top' for an 8-bit system, but if you can get one at an acceptable price, and your software can be persuaded to drive it, then it will be even faster, and the output crisper, than an inkjet. For now, an inkjet printer from one of the major manufacturers is probably the best choice. To sum up, any printer which can work in '**Epson**-compatible' mode should be quite straightforward to attach and use, but some computers will need a special interface to act as a data interpreter, and software manuals should be checked to ensure your programs will work with a non-dedicated type of printer.

An important item in terms of assessing alternative costings is the price of the paper. If a copy bureau is providing the paper as an incidental part of their processing of the job, say doing all the reproduction work from your masters, you will not have to buy the paper yourself. If, however, you will be feeding each sheet through your printer, the paper price will be yours. You may have time on your hands and be prepared to do this, in which case you may not wish to use the very cheapest paper. If you shop around and can afford to buy paper by the 5-ream box (5 packs of 500 sheets) some good value, good quality, deals can be had.

Because it is the 'industry standard' size, A4 paper is *much* cheaper than A3 (2 x A4) or A5 ($\frac{1}{2}$ x A4), size for size. For example, at my local office superstore 500 sheets of A4 cost £3.39, 500 A5 sheets cost £3.59 (for $\frac{1}{2}$ - A4, remember, so over twice the A4 price really), and 500 A3 sheets cost £9.99. All papers were 80gsm, medium quality). By choosing comb-bound A4, rather than fold-it-myself A3, I was able to make appreciable savings in 8BIT's production costs. A further benefit came because the printing charge is based on the number of pages. Using A4 resulted in twice the number of A3 sheets (logically) and shifted me up two discount bands.

I phoned some computer fanzine editors to see what their preferred options were in terms of production and all said they took the job as far as the masters, then took these to others for photocopying. Why did I keep printing the small ads sheets myself for so long? Well, for plain text it is an option, and it was cheap at the price I pay for my paper, but the time! A5 is the preferred size for many small press editors and folded A4 is a real option, rather than the side-stapled A5 sheets I received a month or two back. I asked the editor why he had chosen this and he explained his DTP program could only produce A5 printout so and he had plenty of time and only seventeen subscribers he preferred to do the lot that way.

Time is also a factor if you are printing from a Desk Top Publishing package. If pictures are *not* involved and you can get away with using just a word processor for a page comprising text only the printing will be relatively fast. Do the same page of text as a DTP program's graphics dump and you can often multiply the printing time by 10. However, if you do all the text part of the pages with the word processor, leave a window on the page for the graphic which is printed separately with all your other graphics images, and then cut and paste the pictures with a spray (such as 3M's **Spray Mount**) you get good quality masters in reasonable time. To permit correction of occasional mispositioning clangers (and to allow removal of artwork for later re-use) use the type of spray which stays tacky.

This mixed-media method is now my preferred way of working on 8BIT magazine and the various articles and press releases I get involved in. If you take your master copies to a bureau, ask them to prepare a 'working master set' for you. This will be a set of photocopies of your masters which you should keep safely filed at home for when you need to get a reprint. They will work from their version of this set, so the originals you give them should not become too dog-eared during the process.

One option I have yet to buy, and therefore do not speak from experience, is an external printer buffer. This is connected between the computer and the printer and acts as a temporary storage area for data. As I have said above, graphics printing is usually particularly slow, and a page in best quality mode can take many minutes to print during which time you might as well go away and get on with the rest of your life. The buffer's benefit is that once a computer has passed on its wad of data to it, it slowly releases the data to the printer while the computer will act as if the printing is complete and allow you to get on with something else through the keyboard. Because of its fairly unsophisticated output, an 8-bit computer does not need much temporary memory in a buffer; even 50-100k is enough. I would welcome further information from any reader who can speak from personal experience.

If you can get your print runs into the five hundreds per issue (of about 10 pages per issue), you should start considering other options of reproduction from your printers rather than photocopying. What you choose will depend on what they can offer, but that is about the level at which it becomes economic to consider 'real printing.' This will be the subject of a follow-up article.

Despite pricing himself out of 8BIT's production, and then being an awkward so-and-so by keeping some of the master copies of 8BIT I gave him for reprinting, Jon Sheffield was an absolute diamond in providing the benefit of his experience for the preparation of this series. So, thank you Jon, anyway.

Oh dear! To say there was a very poor response to our last competition is a slight understatement; I am amazed there was not one entry for our "the worst program I ever had" theme. Nothing daunted, that competition will remain open until I get a worthy winner.

In addition, this issue I am starting *another* competition. The question to be answered is "Alan Sugar is driven around in a Rolls Royce with the registration number AMS 1. What model of Rolls Royce is it?"

The prize offered last time was a fine, if slim, volume of cartoons called *My Computer Doesn't Love Me*, which I found very funny, and I am adding the option of winning Howard Rheingold's definitive (hardback) book on the subject of *Virtual Reality*.

First winner to either compo chooses which they want, second winner gets the other.



Können Sie doitsch?

Then you might benefit from reading **'MUMPITZ'**, which covers most 8bit computers and their emulators on Amiga and PC. MUMPITZ (= nonsense or rubbish) tests new products developed by german tinkers and gives tips for data interchange between the different systems and hints for the conversion of graphic formats. You will also find circuit diagrams for (new) hardware expansions.

MUMPITZ is a monthly mag and gratis (a kind of *paper shareware* - international reply coupons are welcome). For a test copy write to

**Hans-Christof Tuchen, Lotzestr.10,
D-12205 Berlin**

Converting Koalas

On the CPC you won't find such pretty graphics like on the C64. On the Commodore they had art contests and so you can get megabytes of nice paintings in the public domain. I decided to convert some of it to impress other folks.

Actually I'm doing it in assembler, but here is a Basic listing with many REMarks to enable users of other systems to write a version of their own. In Basic it's awfully slow: converting four pictures takes one hour. The KOALA source files occupy 10k on disk, the CPC bitmap 17k. That's because on the Commodore machines you have the restriction of using only four different colours in an area of 8x8 pixels. So the conversion works only one way.

One thing you have to know is the organization of the C64 screen memory. In multicolour mode you have four different locations which are stored all together in a KOALA file:

\$6000-\$7F3F: Bitmap

\$7F40-\$8327: Screen ram

\$8328-\$870F: Colour ram

\$8710: Background colour

Each pair of bits in the bitmap works as a pointer to one of the four colour sources: high or low nibble of the corresponding screen ram cell, corresponding colour ram cell or register for background colour in the VIC. The bitmap is also organized in cells i.e. the second byte is displayed under the first, the third under the second and so on, but the ninth is displayed in the right of the first.

```
00 08 16 24 32 40 48 56 64 72 80
01 09 17 25 33 41 49 57 65 73 81
02 10 18 26 34 42 50 58 66 74 82
03 11 19 27 35 43 51 59 67 75 83
04 12 20 28 36 44 52 60 68 76 84
05 13 21 29 37 45 53 61 69 77 85
06 14 22 30 38 46 54 62 70 78 86
07 15 23 31 39 47 55 63 71 79 87
```

If you have a C128 you can transfer the files by putting them on bank 1 and saving them with SAVE.COM on a IBM-SS-CP/M disk. But that's a different story.

Hans-Christof Tuchen

RECENT READING RECEIVED:

8BIT does not cover disc-based magazines in depth, as part of its intention is to encourage interest in computers other than the reader's own and, unless one has access to the computer for which disczines are designed, they are inaccessible to new 'readers.' However, every 8-bit publication needs all the support it can get, so if publishers or editors of disc/k send me a printed summary of their contents rather than the actual disc/k, I will cover them as space allows.

AlchNews: Very large and good Spectrum tape and disc (but not 3") magazine, also available for PC use with a Speccy emulator. Each has the equivalent of 384 A4 pages incl details of other services. Just £1 from **Alchemist Research**, 62, Tithe Barn Lane, Woodhouse, SHEFFIELD, S13 7LN. What a bargain!

Capital Computer Club's Newsletter: PCW. Come on, don't be insular! Drop them a line to find out what it's like to live without much/any dealer support. What do you mean, you already know?! Send a couple of IRCs to Hon Sec: Raymond Peterson, 21, Mapplebeck Street, Titahi Bay, Porirua, New Zealand. He'd like to hear from you.

CHR\$(7) - The Scotwest PCW Club Newsletter: No 51 & 52. Mainly PCW. It's only a folded A4 sheet but carries the bargain section Track (an advertising feature of items under £50) and concise news and articles of interest primarily to PCW users, including a good piece on high density discs. If you're near Glasgow, the Club meets on the first Saturday of each month. 1st July - LocoScript templates, no meeting in August. Further details write to David Williams, 32/34, Carfin Street, New Stevenston, MOTHERWELL ML1 4JL.

Classix: No 2. This has a nice niche in the magazines market by focussing on the contents and stories behind the best Spectrum games. The fact that most of them also appeared on the other 8-bit computers broadens the interest. The articles are all very well written and interesting. Even though it's compiled on a PC, some of the fonts are quite small and do not reproduce too well, but it's all legible and most important, very good reading. For a copy send £1 to James Waddington, 11, Finsbury Drive, Wrose, BRADFORD W Yorks BD2 1QA.

Commodore Fantastic Disk-zine C64. £1 (cheques to N Dudman). First issue includes interviews with Phil Nicholson and Jason McKenzie, compos, adverts, pd, demo, reviews + all the usual stuff. Available from Nick Dudman, *The Coach House*, Starleyburn, Burntisland, Fife, Scotland KY3 0AG

Computer Scene No 7 & 8. Commodore. A4. I took this with me to London for something to read on the train and really nearly missed my stop, and it was the terminus. 44 pages, packed with C64-relevant features and information, this is amazing value at £1. Editor Richard Bowen not only knows his stuff, he has some excellent contacts to furnish him with news and articles. Send £1.50 (or £2.50 if you'd like a copy of OZSI-64 diskzine as well) + large SAE to Richard at 35, Nottingham Road, Nuthall, NOTTINGHAM, Notts NG16 1DN.

Cornwall PCW Club Newsletter: No 22. This issue, as well as a piece on the merits of backing up (data, that is) someone wants a PCW screen blanker; anyone got one? They meet on the second Saturday each month. July 13th will be a 'new members welcome special' on Layouts and Templates. Contact new Secretary John Shipcott for details (01209 713997).

CPC South West: April '96. A5 CPC. Here's a rarity - a CPC local club, large enough to have its own magazine. I don't know how they do it (raw talent?), but they've managed to come up with a format that nicely complements the big two national clubs' publications. Send £1.50p for a sample copy to Dave Stitson, 4, Connaught Avenue, Mutley, PLYMOUTH, Devon PL4 7BX

Crashed No 14 Spectrum/SAM mainly. A4. Full-colour covers, news, reviews, interviews with famous people (this issue has that Brian Watson, who manages to spend all the time protesting that he is consistantly misunderstood and very old. He is also rather rude at times). Indispensable for a Spec/SAM user if you're not dead between the ears. Send £1 now to recapture that spirit of youth etc etc to Allan 'Gerremof' Clarkson, 16, The Avenue, Manston, LEEDS LS15 8JN.

The Disc Drive: No 9. PCW. Officially the magazine of the **South Essex PCW Club**, this is fast turning into a magazine of national importance, with a balance of content to appeal to all sorts of PCW users, and a nice, 'clubby' atmosphere. Meetings announced for 6th June - Brian Watson on Protext - Ooer!, 4th July - Microdesign 3, 1st August - TBC. Send £1 to David Lalieu at 10, Sheridan Avenue, Benfleet, Essex SS7 1RD for a sample copy (£8 per annum) and membership details.

Einstein Magazine and All Micro News: No 77 - 10th Birthday Compendium (2nd of its type). The 'house magazine' of the UK **Einstein User Group (UKEUG)** and is quite the worst presented A5 magazine it has been my good fortune to read. In the interests of economy, they use recycled paper on a very dodgy photocopier, but at least they are keeping the magazine going rather than giving in to their production difficulties. I am almost disappointed that this issue is more legible this time! The actual 76-page content of the magazine is very good indeed; an anthology of general articles and more technical features, and surely indispensible for an Einstein user (or owner who wants to be a user). I got mine a month ago and am still enjoying reading it. All their back issues are still available providing a very comprehensive library of Einey information. For a sample copy, send just 2 (unused!) 1st class stamps and an A5 SAE to Tony Adams, *Ivy Cottage*, Church Road, New Romney, KENT TN28 8TY

SPECIAL REQUEST: The Einstein User Group (above) needs a good source for toner, replacement drum, cleaner blade and service manual for their recalcitrant Canon NP-125 photocopier. And is there an 8-bit photocopier user group? Write to Tony Adams, *Ivy Cottage*, Church Road, New Romney, KENT TN28 8TY or phone 01303 874430 (evenings)

Format: Vol 9 Nos 8 & 9. SAM/Spectrum, professionally printed A5. Largely for 'serious' users, but carries such good stuff as: new SAM Coupés - £145, secondhand - £80, more news of **Format PC** to cover the early Amstrad PCs and a list of current 3" disc stockists. Consistantly funny covers, incidentally. Send £1.50 to Format, 34, Bourton Road, GLOUCESTER GL4 0LE.

Intl ZX81 Magazine No 1. New magazine *in English*. ZX clones, memory expansion project and ZX81 vs 486AT 'head to head'; the funniest benchtest I've ever read! Send 1 IRC to Martin van der Zwan, Moerweg 508, 2531 BL Den Haag, Netherlands for a sample.

Mumpitz: No 21 & 22. All formats. The excellent German equivalent of 8BIT (only better). It takes me ages to translate but if you are reasonably proficient, you would find it very worthwhile. Hans-Christof has kindly sent a summary in English for recent issues. The latest issues include coverage of a new, fully-featured, C64 and CPC emulators for use on a PC and much VC20 news; an interface, a user group, and a hardware upgrade to 37kb. Send whatever you can afford (it's worth *at least* £2) to Hans-Christof Tuchen, Lotzstrasse 10, D-12205 BERLIN for a sample copy.

Outlet: 3" Spectrum disc. The long-running disczine from **Chevron Software** aimed at the more serious Spectrum hobbyist. Ron and Brian Cavers invite you to send a 3" disc to 34, Saltersgate Drive, Birstall, Leics LE4 3FF for a sample issue.

PC Mart: Fortnightly from newsagents 95p. As well as hundreds of adverts relevant to 8-bit users, this magazine carries a very informative regular Classic Computers feature and will shortly begin a C64 section *as well*. Well done and thank you Paul Rigby and Steve Denson for getting steam-driven things back into the newsagents.

PCW Plus: 117 and 118. As the last newsstand 8-bit magazine, the magazine has broadened its appeal with serious coverage for all would-be professional writers. It also carries many adverts from computer supplies and repair companies which are also of general interest. Despite the usual plethora of knockers (which *all* the national magazines have attracted in their time), it still maintains a good balance between Locoscript and the rest, with the versatile Simon Forrester leaping in to teach BASIC and various experts addressing readers' more technical enquiries. If word processing is a significant part of your computer use, whatever you've got, I recommend it. As a national PCW forum it is unrivalled and with the new PcW16 (previewed again in 118) due it should attract a new tranche of readers; use it or lose it. £3.25 monthly, and you may have to order it.

PD Power A5. Having followed and enjoyed one side of the Alchemist PD (Andy Davis) vs. PD Power (Martyn Sherwood) global conflict for a couple of years, it is a real pleasure to receive the fruits of the other side. Whereas some principal players on the Spectrum scene have chosen to keep their heads down for fear of writs (I'm reasonably wealthy and have a good lawyer), a visit from the Data Protection Registrar (I'm registered) or a junk mail campaign (Ooh, yes please!), 8BIT is proud to declare to the world that it finds the whole soap opera brings a breath of fresh air to a scene which could otherwise spend *all* its time droning on about the same old games and utilities. PD Power is a very good indeed, apart from a rather wingey bit at the back by Leon of the 8 Bit Alliance, and deserves support. I believe most people who claim to stand with one side to the exclusion of the other actually subscribe to both 'Power and Alchnews and obtain great benefit from both. Keep it up, chaps! PD Power costs £13.30, or £10.20 + £6.50 Power PD club membership. Write to Martyn Sherwood, 13, Rodney Close, Bilton, RUGBY, Warks CV22 7HJ.

Sharp Users Club A5. Vol 16 number 1. Still supporting the old Sharp Z80 machines, and developing new software for them. The magazine has a very polished look and the content ranges from the technical to the 'press and go'. Send £2 for a sample copy to Maurice Hawes, 6, Belle Vue, The Esplanade, WEYMOUTH, Dorset DT4 8DR.

SIXTY-FOUR Newsletter: The redoubtable Leon Bebbington has sent me his latest newsletter for Commodore users everywhere which features current info on bulletin boards. Send an SAE to 348, Station Road, WINSFORD, Cheshire CW7 3DG forthwith.

WACCI: CPC Nos: 100 & 101. Indispensable for CPC Users: a magazine and a club for the serious user. It's a mine of information, including techy and repairs, and much is raised and resolved via the letters column. They also have PD and 3" discs at sensible prices. These 2 issues reflect a gradual change of management style and editorship as the organisation is devolved to a wider number of people than hitherto. I especially liked the feature on greenhouse gardening in 101 and hope the new editor can also branch out into other areas. Send £2 to Paul Derryhouse, WACCI, 7, Brunswood Green, Hawarden, Deeside, CLWYD CH5 3JA.

Zodiac Issue 16/17 A5 SAM. How have I missed this? A comprehensive SAM fanzine for which I now cannot find the accompanying letter and the deadline approaches! Send £2 to Michael Stocks at erm... (c/o 8BIT for now... sorry)

I do not feel 8BIT's coverage of other 8-bit publications is as good as it needs to be to satisfy its readership. I assume a responsibility to cover others where possible but the space given to it in this issue meant leaving out other features. There is something potentially incestuous in writers reviewing each other too. I have already (reluctantly) limited the coverage of single-format disczines, because of their limited accessibility to all potential subscribers and see the only options as (1) leave out the ones I don't like - is that fair? (2) reduce my coverage of their contents (3) drop the section completely to be quite impartial (4) adopt a smaller print size; not ideal for articles but perhaps acceptable for small adverts section. Adding extra pages is not an economic option. I would welcome comments.

THE BEST PUBLIC DOMAIN FOR AMSTRAD CPC

This is the last part of the series by Tom Dean and covers discmags, slideshows.

REBELS CORP SHOW and CRYSTAL SHOW (graphics by MaDe) (slideshows) Great mode 0 overscan slideshows by the CPC's best graphic artist, but Crystal repeats some slides from Rebels. Crystal is the later, and better one.

PICTURE GALLERY (slideshow) I don't know who drew these excellent mode 1 piccies, but they are most likely the best mode 1 hand-drawn pics you'll ever see.

There are other slideshows which usually contain digitised screens such as STAR TREK - THE NEXT GENERATION - good if you're interested in the subject. A friend of mine who watches Star Trek thinks it's great. TERMINATOR 2 - an ST owning friend of mine thinks the graphics are ace, TURTLEMUCK; Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles, or Amiga-ported screens (AMIGA GRAPHICS 1 and 2).

BADMAG discmag (Editor: Crown of BENG) Great coding and lots of interesting articles in both English and German. Not all articles are CPC-related.

BETTER THAN LIFE discmag (Editor: CRTC of Discovery) The best English code around, but many articles involve tech stuff and slagging people. 3rd ish almost available.

IMPACT discmag (Editor: Tom Dean) It's mine. Coding isn't great, but improves each issue. 1-4 take up one disc each, one side with PD on. 5 has no software, but a PD disc is available (from me) for people who want it. Not all articles CPC-specific.

There are more great PD discmags around, but these are the best I've seen. Pot De Call, Disc Full, Micro Mag and Press Fire are all French discmags. Most of these proggies can be obtained through any PD library (IMPACT can be obtained through me, but a lot of the PD libraries are not very good. IMPACT gives a list of c**p PD libraries (in his opinion-BW's lawyer) as well as good ones.....

RECENTLY RECEIVED CPC DEMOS etc

I have received some CPC Demos from Tom Dean, whose series of articles finishes this issue. They really push the chips of the CPC with (at various stages) colourful scrolling raster bars pulsing to the background music, an apparently infinite chessboard pattern rolling smoothly into the background while a ball bounces lazily over it, and the usual scrolling messages from the programmers to other coders and you. The point of some of these is lost when they whizz off the screen at speed.

Not every part of every demo works on my 2 CPCs; there is some variation in the CRTC chips and programs that do the most demanding tasks sometimes fall over, but those that do work on mine are very entertaining. The sound coding too is particularly effective and very listenable, even to someone who spends most of my computing time with the volume turned right down.

BORDEL3 starts OK, as does BORDEL4, which runs after first apparently loading a corrupted screen, but the others in that series switch to "tape" mode and lock. Are they automatically accessed as sequences of the programs which *do* run directly? Oops, having now read the accompanying letter I see the rest *are* parts of BORDELI3! -Schadel works fine, as does Malfunct, which I thought was to be a repeat of a little program from some years ago which gave an impression of a screen meltdown.

In running *any* demos it is worth trying random keypresses to initiate special effects or access other parts of the program, as in some of these. I won't spoil it by telling you where. There are also a couple of games. BO, a kind of Invaders game if my German is up to it, and Solomon3, a block-shifting puzzle game.

EINSTEIN NEWS 1 - Exhibition Experiences by Stephen Potts

After visiting a few computer fairs last year I went to the Stafford AMS show in November. There we saw Tony Adams who was, to be honest, quite worn out. After listening to his tale of woe about the way he does the trip and noting that the spring '96 show was to be at Spalding in Lincolnshire which is reasonably OK for me to reach I thought I could help out. I believed that I could show my two working Einsteins without doing the club any discredit.

As I have two small children my time is not really my own so I had to recruit some help on the stand. As I heard nothing from other Einstein members I had to bribe a PC owner (John Richardson) to help by allowing him to put a few of his spare bits on on the stall. I must give a big 'thank you' to Ray Gamble and Graham Bettany for the space to show our club is alive and supporting the Einstein. The week before the show I prepared my Vauxhall with the rattling big ends by splashing out on some thick oil and a new filter. On the Saturday I took the rear seats out and began to load up. Isn't it amazing how all those little bits in the bedroom fill the car up to the roof!. John arrived early Sunday morning and we managed to squeeze in the space left, not forgetting the most important piece of kit the kettle...

Arriving at Springfields Garden Centre, we parked as close to the hall as we could. Looking in, we were greeted by Ray who showed us the spot allocated. The next hour or so saw me spreading out sheets to cover the tables. Two pieces of iron went up at the ends of the table and on a washing line the signs my daughter, Alex, and myself had made hung above. As I believe in the American form of computer fair with things actually working, we set up one Einstein with a colour monitor running the demo program continuously and the menu of games for the people to try. At the other end of the table we had my other Einstein with the 80 column card and mono monitor showing the PD library disc also the printer was connected to this one. I took a few printers and some old Spectrum stuff but by lunch all I had sold was a large 'teach your self basic' book and I went mad and blew the lot on a currant scone.

We had a constant trickle of enquires from various standpoints, several people had Einsteins in the loft or had given them to nephews etc. All were furbished with the PD list and details of the Club. The perplexing and disturbing part was that people expected us to know every part on every stall and give them free advice that the stall holder who was selling would not. Also questions about how to set up a printer for word on a PC1512 that they hadn't got the manuals to as they were given the computer and couldn't even figure out that they needed a lead... !!!

During the day several people tickled the keys, the younger played Hangman and others surprised themselves by getting their name on screen. The most surprising visitor to the stand was undoubtedly Mr Milton Finesilver who still has a soft spot for the Einstein. He dazzled me with some key presses and showed me a DR logo demo I did not know existed, we chatted pleasantly for a while and he inspected my 3½" inch drive mods. He tells me he now has a PCW. As those of you who know me my interest is in all 3" Z80 micro computers that run CP/M, such as the Einstein, PCW and also the CPC or "Arnold".

Some started early for the trip home as they had far to travel. The attendance was probably less than Sharward would have liked due to the change of venue but we were there flying the flag and giving out the message that we still have Einsteins and the wherewithall to run and support them. I have been asked to do the Stafford show on 9th November '96 but the amount of kit and the effort in setting up and down is more than one man can stand. So if I could suggest a time share deal with any members wishing to attend. Anyone willing to man the stand for a time while I have dinner or could donate or lend kit to display, please drop me a line.

Write to Stephen at 85, Thorold Ave., Cranwell village, Lincolnshire NG34 8DS.

THE LAWYERS' PCW CLUB.

CLUB ENQUIRIES TO: Keith Simons, 10 Orrishmere Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, Cheshire.
SK8 5HP.

Tabulators

Locoscript and other wordprocessors offer several different types of tabulator. If you choose the right one, it can save a considerable amount of work.

Consider the examples given below:-

└1.....2.....3.....*.....5.....*.....6┐

This layout has a "decimal" tabulator set at columns 40 and 55, the margins being at 0 and 62. The decimal tabulator automatically aligns the phrase around its decimal point, so:-

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less receipts		<u>54,000.00</u>
Balance due		<u>100,160.00</u>

Note how all the figures are lined up around the decimal point - there is no need to pad out with spaces. The use of decimal tabs is ideal when setting out figures.

└→.....→.....3.....4.....5.....6┐

Here, we have altered the layout so that there are ordinary tabulators at positions 10 and 20.

This may be used for paragraph indentations, e.g.

1. The Buyer hereby covenants with the Seller to perform and observe the covenants and conditions referred to in a Conveyance (hereinafter called "the Conveyance") etc..

If, however, you hold down the [ALT] key when pressing [TAB], this gives you an 'indent tab'. Future lines continue to be indented to the tab position. The indent tab is particularly useful for typing documents and especially Wills e.g.:

The Vendor	Samuel Smith of 11, Sunset Street, Sunnington, Somerset and Simon Stephens of Sunrise, Sunnington, Somerset.
------------	--

└2.....←.....3.....→.....5.....6┐

There are also "right tabs" (at 20 above), where the right hand margin of everything tabulated is aligned, and "centre tabs" (at 40 above), where they are centred. Examples of use:-

Messrs. Jones,
Solicitors,
10, High Street,
Swansea.

You are invited to
a Reception
to celebrate
Mr. John Smith
becoming
a Partner

NEWS AND SNIPPETS

The Independent Eight Bit Association is about to issue its first newsletter. Edited by Monica Dickerson, it will include details of the latest happenings including the impending update of the 8-bit directory, and many proposals for activities. Further details from IEBA Secretary Brian Watson c/o 8BIT.

OJ Software have just sent me their latest pricelist, including cheap blank 3" discs and much other stuff suitable for all 8-bit computer users, though mainly CPC. For your copy send an SAE to 273, Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington, Nr WIGAN, Lancs WN6 9RN.

Having used them, I can recommend **FFWD Services** as suppliers of 3½" disc drives for 8-bits. Their address is PO Box 55, LUTON, Beds LU1 1XG, or phone with your requirements to 01582 423885.

The VAT and Duties tribunal has confirmed Customs' view of the liability of *hairstressers' chair* as stated in para 2.7 of Notice 742 *Land and property*. The rights granted to self-employed stylists to run a business within a hairdressing salon amount to a single supply taxable at the standard rate. Even though each stylist had an allocated space, a licence to occupy that space could not be disassociated from the right to use *other facilities* of the salon such as junior staff(!), basins, and dryers. VAT Notes Nol 1996. First with the news...

Amstrad's PcW16 saga rolls on and my test model only *totally* crashes (rather than locks up, which is more frequent) intermittently now with the latest version (2.68) of the o/s, the in-built word processor being particularly buggy still. I did offer **Protext**....

However, it progresses in leaps and bounds and my latest guess for release is somewhere at the end of July. It is still rather slow, but I use it all the time for its Address Book and Diary functions. News from the 'net suggests there is space for an *extra* 1Mb on the board, *plus* 1Mb flashram, *plus* a hard drive interface and an interface for a colour VGA monitor. I can add that colour and enhanced sound handling is

in-built but not implemented in the standard model. I can hardly wait...

I've got a couple of C64 games sent here from **Nemesis Productions**, published by **Cherry Software** in Sweden, which need looking at: *Tric Trac*, *Cardland*, *On Ice*, *Deadline* and *Wonky Worms*. Do I have a volunteer to review them (and then keep them afterwards?)

Having solved the auto-loading of **Mini-Office**, Keith Bull is now offering upgrades, amendments and user support to owners of **Europress** PCW programs. His address is *Le Coié*, 60 Hildaville Drive, Westcliffe-on-Sea, Essex SS0 9RU.

Hmm! This address rings a bell: Supportware for the C64 is offered by writing to (the great) Jon Wells at 9, De Grey Road, KING's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 4PH.

'Publish and be damned Dept'. Ed Harris of the **Berks PCW Club** suggests a better solution for those experiencing problems with **Protext** and **The Network** on a PCW, as publicised in the last 8BIT. Rather than bunging **WACCO** £5 for an updated version of **Prospell** (the **Protext** spelling checker - free to registered users), if a user could use **Flipper** and 1.5Mg of extra memory, apparently the problem disappears. How much does that *cost*, I wonder? *His Plan B* involves using **LocoScript 3**, **LocoFile**, **LocoMail** with the **Network** (sorry, *how much?*), and *Plan C* is the same, without **The Network**.

I reckon Mike Elliston has the right idea; he reckons there is no problem and users should hold on to their money. I thought **WACCO** were a money-grabbing bunch of sharks, and now I'm sure of it.

With this rush of information on Einsteins in this issue, I will be sending off for a 3" disc of Einstein articles to A Dunapace (and perhaps they were), Burnhouse Cottage, Milton Road, Lennoxton, GLASGOW G65 7NH.

The new **Fountain PD Spectrum** library catalogue is now ready. For a paper copy, send your details to 11, Camel Road, Silvertown, LONDON E16 2DE.

And now the weather.....

VERY ATTRACTIVE SHORTS

1) The lost series (plural):

I have lost count of the number of once-promised articles from would-be contributors which failed to actually materialise, but I mention in passing creating 'magic-eye' images (three of which I saw and very good they were too), 8-bit computing around the world, a 'large format' utility (are you there, George Imrie?) for the PCW, genealogy using a simple word processor (this will probably turn up, done by me instead, in the newsletter of the new Protext Users Club), easy fax-ing and e-mail (but outwards only) with an 8-bit, the latest emulators, "I've got a SAM..." (four versions volunteered, none yet arrived), etc, etc.

As an example of the weird perils of publishing, I recount the following odd experience:

About a year ago I received a 127k text file list of Spectrum games dated 04/09/1995 from Mike Mee, all available for use with a Spectrum emulator on a PC. There were 2767 Spectrum programs, of which only 223 were text files plus 2 pictures files, so the list appeared extremely comprehensive. There was even a section in which one could find some of the games, but with the addition of some form of modification to ensure you didn't die (as easily!).

What a job of getting copyright releases it must represent, for starters. And compiling and cataloguing it was obviously a prodigious task. A new CD-ROM containing the first edition of the files, plus numerous other emulators was announced as being released on the 4th February 1995, containing the whole of this collection, plus Amstrad, Apple, Atari, C64, MSX, ZX81 items.

With the list came an offer of a series on emulators for 8BIT. Although the examples quoted would refer to Spectrum software run through an appropriate emulator on a PC (he said) it seemed to be of sufficient general interest to readers to be worthwhile taking up the offer. So I did.

The first part arrived and was published, then nothing. I wrote, I phoned, but still no reply. So ended the lesson. If Mike is still out there, what can I say? We started well, and I would like to publish part 2, and 3, etc etc.

2) Coming soon

I intend the next issue of 8BIT to be a bit of an E-mail and communications special. I have two very good 'getting started' features already to hand which are long overdue for publication and all other contributions would be welcomed.

3) Problems! Problems! Worry! Worry!

I receive at least two home-published 8-bit computer magazines a week and am not sure if 8BIT's coverage of them is as good as it should be to satisfy the readership. The large piece in this issue meant leaving out other features and I feel there is something rather incestuous in writers writing about other writers.

I feel a responsibility to cover others where possible but, while I am aware these publications are often vehicles for developing skills, it sometimes appears there is not enough talent or potential readership to go around, especially when so many fail before issue 5. I breathed a sigh of relief when I heard that **After Dark** was going in with **Otto** as, while each was good alone, I am sure an even better publication will result by pooling their resources. Perhaps other editors should consider that option?

Another delicate area which comes under consideration when I am trying to free up pages for articles is display advertising space. This was to be a 'no ads, catching up' special this time but I got so many grumbles I decided otherwise, so am still stuck with the backlog. While a reciprocal arrangement with an organisation is mutually beneficial in terms of reduced costs, I wonder how much response to them is made by the readers. In terms of monitoring this, I will tighten the monitoring of things up here and I invite others to do the same. We'll look at it again in a couple of months.

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 NOT
 REDUCE

SCULLY,
 RUSS.

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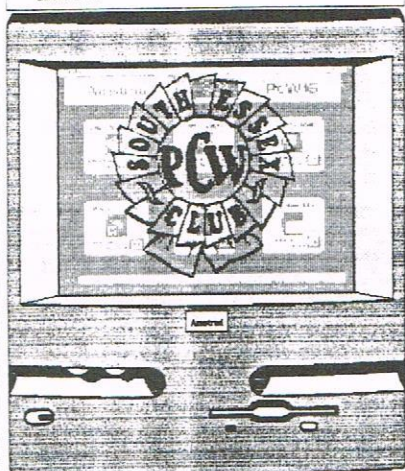
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IT'S AN ILL WIND Dept

I recently heard from Steve Denson of **SD Microsystems** (see their display adverts elsewhere) that he is currently running a half-price sale on most of his CPC software. And you will also find **Electric Boys** (see *their* display adverts elsewhere) are doing the same on many of their C64 items. Now what does this suggest to you?

Yes, at this time of the year, software (and hardware too, for that matter) sales are famous for pretty quiet and, with the goods sitting on the shelves, wiser suppliers consider offering bargains to keep the cashflow rolling and the goods turning. I must confess that, as a partner in **WACCO**, the outfit which owns the **Protext** word processor, we have reacted to the quiet time too by offering 'bargain bundle' discounted deals for customers buying the recently re-released **Protext Office** with other programs.

Regardless of which computer you use, if you are teetering on the brink of parting with some money for software, or might buy something if it was a couple of pounds cheaper, now would be a good time to contact your potential supplier and make an enquiry to see if they have any bargains currently on offer.

DON'T LOOK BACK IN ANGER

If you did happen to miss the first issue of **Classix**, then you'll probably be thinking that the above quote is merely a song by those nice clean-living lads from **Oasis**. Not so!

This was also, in fact, the very same quote which appeared on our debut front cover. It's what we believe - the good old **Spectrum** days should be looked back upon with pride.

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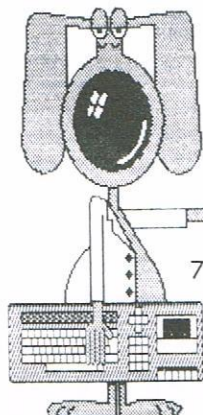
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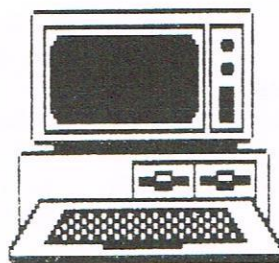
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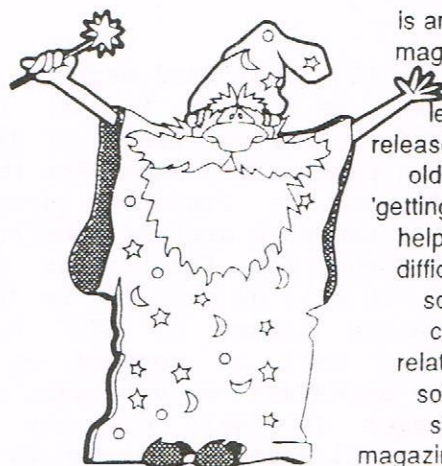
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3) Advertisements for the next 8BIT must be received by 15th July 1996.

4) Adverts of over 50 words may be cut.

5) No guns, animals, or cars allowed.

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I have decided (at last) to publish 8BIT's requirements for all copy which is to be considered for publication.

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Alternatively, you can e-mail copy to 8BIT at 8bit@spheroid.demon.co.uk.

If you want something (headers, your witticisms, etc) emphasised, underline the relevant passage and I will make it conform to 8BIT's house style.

If you would like your original copy returned, please enclose a NEW, self-addressed, envelope of an appropriate size with the correct postage. I will then copy *your* copy, return *your* copy, and work from *my* copy of *your* copy.

Copy for photo-reproduction should have the same proportions as those needed for reproduction (and don't send a vertical display advert to go into a horizontal space; it won't go).

Remember that there must be white space around each image to ensure that information is not lost when it is pasted up and photocopied:

An image for a 'full page' should be NO MORE than 245mm x 175mm.

A top or bottom 'half-page' image should be NO MORE than 120mm x 175mm. A left or right 'half-page' column should be NO MORE than 85mm x 245mm.

A 'quarter-page' image should be NO MORE than 120mm x 85mm.

Images submitted larger than this may be trimmed or unusable in 8BIT so re-size them yourself unless you trust me and my *terribly* sharp guillotine.

I cannot guarantee that every article submitted will be published but there are some guidelines which, if followed, are more likely to get work accepted:

1) Conform to the above requirements.

2) Articles of general interest to all 8-bit computer users are more likely to be used in 8BIT than those which are only relevant to one computer. Articles on communicating between different types of computer are particularly welcome. If you have written a good piece on one specific computer, submit it first to the editor of a single-interest computer magazine. I'm sure it will be very welcome.

3) From issue 12, published articles or features will be paid for at the following rates: 1 free issue of 8BIT per published page. The basis for this payment will be the finished, edited, size; so if a ten page article submitted is edited down to four pages for publication, it will be paid for by *four* free consecutive issues of 8BIT. Half and part pages will be rounded up as long as they accompany a full page, and 'nearly' pages on their own may be counted as a full page. I will try to be fair on this, so don't shoot the editor; he's doing his best.

In the event of any dispute over payment the editor's judgement is final. At the moment there simply isn't the budget margin for cash payments, but it is my intention to introduce a payment scale with *real money* for submissions as 8BIT continues to grow.

COMMODORE - FOR SALE

Commodore tape games for sale. BMX Simulator 2, Barry McGuigan World Championship Boxing, Gary Lineker's Superstar Soccer all at 50p plus p&p. World Cup Carnival '86 at £3.50 plus p&p. Contact Mark Surridge, COLCHESTER (01206) 792155 REF:O

Commodore 64/128 games and books for sale. Also some other software and hardware. Please send A4 SAE for list to: Miss C Hurlock, 8c, Hamlet Court Rd, Westcliff on Sea, Essex SS0 7LX REF:P

C64 Software; 800 titles SAE for price list to Alan, 18, West Street, Geddington, Northants NN14 1BD REF:U

C64/128 productivity software, games, books and hardware. Many sought-after items available (1581 disk drive, Ramdrive, GeoProgrammer, Easyscript, Newsroom, Geos hints and tips and scores more). Send 2 x 1st stamps for lists. Michael D Pearson, 31, Saxon Close, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire CV37 7DX REF:P

COMMODORE - WANTED

WANTED: Trojan light pen, disk, and tape software for the Commodore 64. Also many items for sale and technical help given for free - just send an SAE or an international reply coupon. Write to Andrew Fisher, 2, Elfleda Road, CAMBRIDGE CB5 8LZ or call 01223 561433 REF:M

WANTED: COMMODORE FORMAT 40 (Jan 1994) in mint condition with/without covertape. Also Wanted - C64 cassettes in mint condition of: Jet Set Willy 1, Dictator by Dk'Tronics, Graham Souness International Soccer and Multimixx 5. Good prices paid. S Ross, 3, Deanbank Street, DUNDEE DD2 2EA REF:L

Wanted Printshop 64, new or second hand - must be complete. Manual for MPS801 and help with Speedscript. Contact M Surridge, 99, Canterbury Road, COLCHESTER, Essex CO2 7RY. Tel: 01206 (Colchester) 792155 REF:O

WANTED! Commodore Format issues 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 35, 37, 40, 41, and 47 - all in vgc with tapes please.

Also wanted: any old Zzap 64s, Commodore Forces, Your Commodores, or Commodore Users. All vgc with tapes. Any reasonable offers considered. Call 01427 (Gainsborough) 610912. REF:O

COMMODORE - MISC

Commodore 64 Technical advice:- If you have a C64/128 technical problem write to me, Andrew Fisher, former technical consultant to Commodore Force and Commodore Format, at 2, Elfleda Road, CAMBRIDGE CB5 8LZ England. Enclose an SSAE or an International Reply Coupon for a fast reply. REF:Z

AMSTRAD CPC - FOR SALE

6128/CTM644/extras, £85+p&p. LQ3500 (24pin) mechanism (no case/power supply) £35. 464/CTM640/discdrive/extras (no f0 key) £70. 3.5" drive c/w sideswitch £45. ACE 1-47 £55, also many ACUs and AAs (no covertapes). Send SAE for lists. ALSO A WANTED: Manual or help for Micro Simplex (6128 version). 01376 344572. R Everett, 2, Coldnailhurst Avenue, BRAINTREE, Essex CM7 2SJ. REF:Z

Six 3" discs for sale @ £1 each incl p&p. Contact Mark Surridge (COLCHESTER, Essex) 01206 792155 REF:O

CPC Software; 500 titles SAE for price list to Alan, 18, West Street, Geddington, Northants NN14 1BD REF:U

Amstrad CPC Database Software "Mini-Office" on 3" disc complete with instructions. Plus Dr Logo & Help. CP/M Plus system utilities. SAE to Alan, 18, Walton Drive, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 4UZ REF:P

An unusual CPC464 (in Britain) with the Spanish keyboard layout £10 + p&p or possible free delivery available. Phone Brian Watson 01353 777006 REF:Z

Amstrad CPC464 games for sale. Send SAE for list to: 29, Curlew, Wilnecote, TAMWORTH, Staffs B77 5PL or phone 01827 260729 after 7pm REF:T

Amstrad Action issues 52-55, 57, 59-64, 67, 69-72, 74, 75, 77-79, 81, 82 (no covertapes). £10 the lot. Telephone: 0161 439 (Stockport) 7034 7-10pm REF:R

AMSTRAD CPC - FOR SALE - contd

Amstrad Action covertapes 35-51 50p each + p&p. Phone Derek on 01745 (Denbigh, Clwyd) 730498. REF:N

CPC6128 keyboard (good working order) £30, green monitor £30, colour monitor £50, 464 (also 6128) sound synthesiser £30, Maplins 8-slot romboard + roms £30, external 3½" drive £30, 3" drive £10, AA mags and tapes for offers. Max, Mini-Office, Tasword, Golf, Chess, PD all on disks. Phone John: 01929 (WAREHAM, Dorset) 554109 REF:L

LOADS OF CPC ITEMS FOR SALE - Tapes, Discs, Magazines, Books. For list send a SSAE TO T.Davies, 8, Garden Suburbs, Trimsaran, Nr Kidwelly, Dyfed SA17 4AB REF:O

Amstrad Action covertapes 21-46 inclusive for offers. Amstrad CPC464 keyboard and CTM640 colour monitor for spares. Also massive collection of tape software to be included (for details send SAE) Only £50 the lot! Mr Peter Jones, Greystones, 27, Town Gate, Calverley, PUDSEY, West Yorkshire, LS28 5NW. Tel: 0113 (LEEDS) 2394011 REF:Q

Xenomorphs: new game by David Hall only £2. Also comes with previously unseen PD software. Send a 3" disc, SAE and cheque or postal order to:- David Hall, 280, Derbyshire Lane West, Stretford, MANCHESTER, M32 9LU. NEWS FLASH - mention 8BIT and save £1 (half price) REF:Q

For Sale: Amstrad Action 16-23, 25, 28, 30, 35, 37-39, 43, 48, 50-59, 71, 89, 91-95, 98-100. Amstrad Computer User Sep 86-Jul 89, Sep 89-Jun 90, Aug 90, Mar 92. Computing With The Amstrad Jun 87-Oct 87 + April 88. CPC Attack Jun and Sep 92. CPC Computing Dec 88. Many with cassettes. £1.50 each inc p&p. Discount for 5+. JW Gamble, 31, Cornmills Road, Soham, Cambs CB7 5AT. Ref:M

Amstrad CPC games for sale. Tapes from 25p, discs from £2. Please send A4 SAE for list to: Miss C Hurlock, 8c, Hamlet Court Rd, Westcliff on Sea, Essex SS0 7LX REF:P

Brunword Elite Mk3 ROM module £60,

30 3" discs £15, replacement internal 3" drive £20. Tel: 01502 (Lowestoft) 518773 and ask for Jonathan. REF:L

Replacement disc drive belts for CPC and PCW 3" drives (also Spectrum?). Flat type belts with full but simple fitting instructions. £2.45 including postage and packing. Mr AJ Howard, 65, Altyre Way, BECKENHAM, Kent BR3 3ED REF:O

FOR SALE: a CPC6128 computer with colour monitor, extra external 3" drive, tape recorder, joystick, some games and some serious discs, Mini-Office 11. Offers. Tel: 01642 617656 REF:O

Large list of 2nd hand CPC tape and disc Software at sensible prices. All originals with instructions. Send 1st class stamp and return label for lists. BA Watson, c/o 8BIT magazine. REF:T

LOADS OF CPC goodies: Tapes, Discs, Roms, Books, Magazines and Hardware. For list send A5 SSAE: Brympton Cottage, Brunswick Road, WORTHING, Sussex BN11 3NQ. REF:P

Amstrad Actions: 29-41 (Feb 88-Feb 89), 46 (Jul 89), also ACU for May 1990. £1 each incl p&p. BA Watson, c/o 8BIT magazine. REF:T

AMSTRAD CPC - WANTED

Wanted Amstrad Action issues 1-28, 33, 36, 37, 45 and 52 with covertapes. Will pay up to £1.50 each. Also wanted Bonzo Scrapyard newsletters - will pay 50p each. Philip Barrass, 12, Westburn Terrace, Roker, Sunderland SR6 9RB REF:U

Wanted AMX mouse for use with 6128. Reasonable amount paid. Telephone: 0161 439 (Stockport) 7034 7-10pm REF:R

Games wanted for CPC, tape or disk please. Send your price list to Martin Bela, 11, Colwell Drive, Brookside, Alvaston, Derby DE24 0UP REF:N

DESPERATELY WANTED; an internal 3" drive for my 6128+ (5v). Also Amtix issue 1. Angela in Worthing: 01903 206739 REF:Z

Protext on ROM, and any other

AMSTRAD CPC - WANTED - contd

Protext series programs on ROM. Will respond to reasonable offers. Also Vidi wanted. Tel: 01502 (Lowestoft) 518773 and ask for Jonathan. REF:L

WANTED: Complete circuit board for 464 (Mk2 condensed version; 10/joystick ports on left side). Independent power supply (5v+12v output), for 6128 used without Amstrad monitor. Megamaths on tape or disc. Vgc daisywheels for Dyneer DW16. Write: Mr N Davies, Flat 1, 39, Broad Street, Newtown, Powys SY16 2BQ REF:N

WANTED: ACU for Nov '84 to Feb '85, Jun '86 to Oct '86, Sep '87 to Dec '87, April '90, Sep '90. Also Amstrad Action 1 and 2 and Amtix 1, 3 to 5, and 10 - 14. Also Pre-40 issues of WACCI, CPC User 1, any issues of CPC Power, CPC Now from 4 onwards, Rundschlag 1-8. Peter Curgenvin, The Hollyar, Bay Road, Trevone Bay, Near Padstow, Cornwall PL28 8QZ. Tel: 01841 520875 REF:U

Wanted for the Amstrad CPC 6128: these adventures on disc - Hitch Hikers Guide to the Galaxy (Infocom), Ingrid's Back (Level 9), Also wanted, these games on disc - Meltdown (Alligator), Knight Games (English Software), Amstrad Action magazines issues 1-7 inclusive. The cover prices offered. Jo Wood, 38, Stonehill Drive, Rooley Moor, ROCHDALE, Lancs OL12 7JN. Telephone: 01706 861185 REF:P

WACCI 3-20, 22-31, 35 & 51, ACU Jan-Aug '86 or before, Jul-Dec '87, all '88, May, Oct, Nov '90, Jun '92 onward. Disc drive DD1 or FD1. Service manuals. Christine Raisin, tel: 0115 (NOTTINGHAM) 9765163. REF:N

'ROMBO ROMBOX' wanted for original Amstrad CPC 6128. State the price wanted. Apply: Mr RE Hobday, 43, Cody Road, Clapham, BEDFORD, Beds. MK41 6ED REF:P

'DISC BASE' + a manual for CPC. £6 (incl p&p.) RE Hobday, 43, Cody Road, Clapham, BEDFORD, Beds MK41 6ED REF:P

CPC - MISCELLANEOUS

Help needed to repair a Multiface 2

which becomes hot in use and ceases to function. Please contact Matthew on 01684 (Tewkesbury) 274993. Cost to be discussed REF:O

WACCI. If you have a CPC then you need us. Send a 29p stamp to: WACCI, 7, Brunswood Green, Hawarden, Deeside, CLWYD CH5 3JA to see what you are missing! REF:T

KING ARTHUR'S DOMAIN is a disc PD Library for the CPC. We have games, utilities, music, clip art, a large selection of CP/M programs and lots more. For catalogue, send 3"/3½" disc + SSAE to: KAD, Brympton Cottage, Brunswick Road, WORTHING, Sussex BN11 3NQ. REF:Z

ARE YOU A FRUSTRATED AMSTRAD CPC USER seeking help and support? Then why not join the United Amstrad User Group for a bi-monthly magazine, PD material (small copy charge), concessions and support, all for £8 per annum. Send SSAE to Gordon Wooliscroft, 2, Wrenbeck Drive, Otley, West Yorkshire LS21 2BR for details. REF:L

Bonzo's Scrapyard number 12a now available. The newsletter for CPC tape to disc transfers via the Bonzo suite of programs. Price - a large SSAE plus an extra 1st class stamp. From: Bonzo's Scrapyard, 29, Chapter Road, Strood, ROCHESTER, Kent. ME2 3PX REF:T

GD.PD: The ultimate in PD software at only 25p per disc side (copy charge) for your Amstrad CPC. For the GD.PD list send an SSAE to: Dave Stitson, 6, Connaught Avenue, Mutley, PLYMOUTH, Devon PL4 7BX REF:L

AMSTRAD PCW - FOR SALE

6 x 3" discs for sale @ £1 each inc p&p. Contact Mark Surridge (COLCHESTER, Essex) 01206 792155 REF:O

Amstrad PCW8256/8512 parts for DIY repair: 3" drives, CPU boards, Power boards, Tubes, Keyboards, printers, etc. Also some books and software. Advice freely given. SAE please for lists and info. Ron King, 19, Stancliffe Road, BEDFORD, Beds MK41 9AN REF:S

Desktop Publisher + mouse/interface

AMSTRAD PCW - FOR SALE - contd

£25, MD3 Network 3½" (v1.05) £12.50, MD3 MicroDisplay 3½" £12.50. SD Microsystems Mini Publisher £12.50, Fancy Borders £7.50, Super Labeller £12.50. ALL C/W MANUALS. SD Picture Disc - Fun Christmas £2.50. Mr W Downie, 8, Smithy Road, STRANRAER, DG9 8LP. Tel: 01776 704363. REF:R

QUIKMYTH: a Locofile database on 3½" disc in 4 versions: (1) Greek mythology (126k) £5, (2) Greek and Norse Myth (168k) £5, (2.1) Greek, Norse and Celtic Notes (212k) £10, and (3) Egyptology - available Autumn 1996. Cheques to: DJ Gaskin, 119, London Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4NP. REF:Q

12 brain-twisting games from SPARK Software for the PCW including Coconut Shy and Fishing. Send cheque for £5 to Mr C McKenzie, 20, Macclesfield Road, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1NR. Specify 3" or 3½" disc. Ref:P

AMX Stop Press, Caxton Condor 1, Caxton Scratchpad+/Smartkey - £15 ea. Tas-Sign, Lord of the Rings game 1 - £10 ea, Synergy Sharemaster, MAP Initnon ledger system £20 ea. SCA Professional + interface - £45. Cut cable 9pin female to 25pin female - free. AEG Olympia FCC 1D2 interface 36pin to 20pin ribbon - £30. JR Cross, *The Parciau*, Clyro, Hay-on-Wye, HEREFORD HR3 5SG. REF:P

Masters with manuals: LS/LM temp disc £5, Matrix Locofont £6, Flipper v3.10 £15 - STILL AVAILABLE WRONG INFORMATION GIVEN TO CALLER IN APRIL. Sybil Fox 67, Alder Lodge, Stevenage Road, LONDON SW6 6NR. 0171 381 1445. REF:L

AMSTRAD PCW - WANTED

WANTED: User Instruction manual for an Amstrad PCW 9512 with daisywheel printer. Eileen. 01621 (Maldon, Essex) 788273. REF:Y

8000+ magazines, especially April 1990, Sept 1990, and Nov 1990. Also an AMS30L 3" disc box. Phone Vic Edwards on 01268 (Canvey, Essex) 514142. Ref:T

For Sale: AZ-330 Olympus Super zoom

camera with an infra-red remote unit, filters, soft case. £175. Would consider part exchange for PCW hardware. Phone: Ted 01275 (Bristol) 340565. REF:O

Wanted: any help or information concerning PCW9256 - Programs, games, Locoscript 3, upgrade memory with chips, 3½" disks. Mr WA Warren, 25, Milton Avenue, ANDOVER, Hants SP10 3DP. REF:P

I would appreciate details of any items for sale or exchange related to PCW8512. Hardware, printers, software, peripherals, programs, discs, manuals, books, etc. Require especially any items related to Protext or Basic, and manuals for Microdesign, Masterfile 8000, Dbase II, Frank Bohan, 13, New Road, Elsenham, BISHOPS STORTFORD, Herts. CM22 6HA. REF:O

PCW - MISCELLANEOUS

Proposed PCW in club in South London hanging fire at present as no-one is available to run it and arrange shared equipment use with youth club where PCWs are housed. Contact Mrs Sybil Fox 67, Alder Lodge, Stevenage Road, LONDON SW6 6NR. 0171 381 1445. REF:Z

Berkshire Amstrad PCW Users Club offers you FREE telephone support, FREE magazine/book loan, FREE machine loan, FREE newsletter. FREE access to bulletin boards etc. FREE Special offers - eg 3" discs only £10 per 10. SAE for details to Ed Harris, 121, Bullbrook Drive, BRACKNELL, Berks RG12 2QR. REF:P

Europress cannot make Mini-Office Professional autoboot. Surely someone, who is cleverer than I, *can*? I have PcW9256 with 1.6M free memory, C/PM 1.15 of J15CPM3.EMT and 3½" A/B drives. Any assistance gratefully received. Keith Bull, *Le Coié*, 60, Hildaville Drive, WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA, Essex SS0 9RU. Tel: 01702 339894. PLEASE. REF:Z

Globe-trotting, or just interested? Contact CAPITAL COMPUTER CLUB, c/o Ray C Patersen (the Secretary), 21, Mapplebeck Street, Titahi Bay, Porirua, New Zealand. The Club now has members with Amstrads (all sorts), Amigas, Macs, Sanyos and PCs with DOS and CP/M. They subscribe to PCW Plus so are well up to date. New members are welcome at each

PCW - MISCELLANEOUS - contd

monthly meeting.

REF:Z

The Cornwall PCW Club meets on the second Saturday of each month (July and August excepted) in St Austell. All those interested in PCWs are most welcome to join us. Details from John Walker on 01752 (Plymouth) 706266 REF:P

TRACK is the name of the very useful free advertising feature section of **SCOTWEST.pcw**, the magazine of the PCW Club of the same name. For more details contact David Williams, 32/34, Carfin Street, New Stevenston, MOTHERWELL ML1 4JL Scotland. 01698 732403 REF:Z

SINCLAIR SPECTRUM - FOR SALE

Six 3" discs for sale @ £1 each incl p&p. Contact Mark Surridge (COLCHESTER, Essex) 01206 792155 REF:O

Spectrum +3 drive belts. £2.45 inc P&P from AJ Howard, 65, Altyre Way, BECKENHAM, Kent BR3 3ED REF:O

50 games from 50p each + various covertapes. SAE to S Swainson, 7, Upper Hill Rise, RICKMANSWORTH, Herts WD3 2NU REF:L

Spectrum games for sale from 50p each. Send SAE for list to: Pauline Fuller, 4, *Whitehouse Cottages*, Sot's Hole Bank, Holbeach St Matthews, SPALDING, Lincs PE12 8EJ REF:P

Spectrum Software; tapes and discs, games and serious. SAE for massive list to Alan, 18, West Street, Geddington, Northants NN14 1BD REF:U

SINCLAIR SPECTRUM - WANTED

Wanted for Spectrum Plus 3 - a word processor with print out facility with or without spell checker as well. Contact Geoff 0171 474 (E London) 2869. Leave information on answerphone with phone number or address REF:Q

Cassette lead for Spectrum +3 desperately wanted! Please write to: Nicholas Campbell, 24, Ballyminstragh Road, Killinchy, Newtownards, Co Down, N Ireland BT23 6RE REF:O

Wanted for Spectrum +3 Multiface3. Willing to pay a good price. Also a copy of Zulu Wars on tape or disc. Willing to buy or swap for any games I may have of interest. Please contact Peter Stevens, 41, Nelson Street, Rosyth, FIFE KY11 2JU. Phone: 01383 419075 REF:P

Wanted: Any back issues and/or the covertapes of **Sinclair User** and **Your Sinclair**. Write with prices required to Nicholas Campbell 24 Ballyminstragh Road, Killinchy, Newtownards, Co Down, N Ireland, BT23 6RE REF:O

Does anyone have a +D or Disciple interface for sale? Oh, and I'd still like a Sinclair flat screen TV. Phone Eifion 01745 (Abergele) 332122 after 6pm. REF:L

WANTED FOR MY SPECTRUM. Old platform and ladder games. Also any second-hand SAM software. Write to: John Turner, 58, Burnside, PARBOLD, Lancs WN8 7PE REF:S

MISCELLANEOUS SMALL ADVERTS

4 x 3.25" disks for PC1512/1640 DOS, GEM, etc New £5. Locoscript 2, Basic, CP/M for PCW9512 on 2 3" discs new £10. PcW10 printers not working (3) £20. PcW10 keyboards not working (3) £10. PcW10 manual new £7. New CF2 3" disks (10) £22. 01388 (BISHOP AUKLAND) 606744 REF:S

Manuals wanted for ZX81, Ti99/4a and Dragon 64. Also software wanted for ZX81, Ti99/4a, MSX, Dragon and Atari 2600. Lists to John at 78 Holtdale Avenue, LEEDS, LS16 7SG REF:K

Did you know? The IEBA (Independent Eight Bit Association) is a group active in promoting the use of 8-bit computers. The first edition of their **Directory of 8-bit Services** is now out and is free to members. Life Membership is £5. For further details send 2 1st class stamps to Brian Watson c/o 8BIT magazine. REF:Z

Free to a good home. For a BBC: AMX art and Games Galore. SAE to S Swainson, 7, Upper Hill Rise, RICKMANSWORTH, Herts WD3 2NU REF:L

FOR SALE: Citizen 120D+ dot matrix

MISCELLANEOUS SMALL ADVERTS - contd

4AQ. (01375 374732)

REF:P

printer. Includes traction feeder and recent ribbon. £100ono. Tel: 0161 439 (Stockport) 7034 from 7pm-10pm weekdays or weekends. REF:B1

MANUALS WANTED for Dragon 64, Texas TI99/4a, Toshiba H-10, Atari STFM. GAMES WANTED for TI99/4a, Toshiba H-10, Atari 65XE, ZX81, Spectrum and Atari STFM and 2600. Also wanted games on 5.25" disc for Amstrad PC1640. Lists to John, 78, Holtdale Avenue, LEEDS LS16 7SG REF:K

WANTED (for any 8-bit computers): any information on music score-editing programs that support guitar tablature. It is important that the application must also support conventional music symbols and typesetting rules (as per a music magazine). Phone 01469 574248 (office hours); 94 Margaret Street, IMMINGHAM, South Humberside DN40 1JY

FOR SALE: Atari XL/XE games for sale. Send SAE for list to: 29, Curlew, Wilnecote, TAMWORTH, Staffs B77 5PL or phone 01827 260729 after 7pm REF:T

WANTED: Any programs, information, user support clubs, etc for the Texas Instruments TI199. Please send to David Ledbury c/o 8BIT magazine. REF:Z

FOR SALE: CPC464, col/monitor, games £35; col/monitor for 464 £25; Dragon32, games £20; Spectrums £15-£30; Sharp MZ700 £10; Sharp MZ80B + disc drive + printer, £30; Einstein, software, colour monitor £30; BBC model B + discdrive, £35; Atari8000XL, disc drive, tape etc £40; Oric1 £20; Toshiba MSX £20. Contact Ed Harris at Berks PCW Users Club 01344 428938. REF:P

WANTED: A manual for Mannesmann Tally 290 printer. Please telephone first to 01253 (BLACKPOOL) 762092 REF:Q

FOR SALE. Star LC100 Colour Printer. Virtually as new; almost unused other than self-tests. 1 black ribbon + 2 4-colour ribbons, 1 metre Centronics cable, manual, original packing. £115. The intended use with existing inkjet not practicable. Purchaser to arrange the transport or shipping. N Bannister, 86, King Edward Drive, GRAYS, Essex RM16

WANTED: Printer manuals for Epson FX-1000, Amstrad 3000, Dyneer Daisy DW16. Write (only) to Mr N Davies, Flat1, 39, Broad Street, Newtown, Powys SY16 2BQ REF:N

Atari 800XE/XL games for sale. Please send SSAE for list to Tim Asson, 29, Curlew, Wilnecote, TAMWORTH, Staffs B77 5PL or phone 01827 (Tamworth) 260729 after 7pm REF:T

LOADS OF GOODIES for your Spectrum, Apricot, Games console, PC: Tapes, Discs, Roms, Books, Magazines and Hardware. For list send A5 SSAE to: Brympton Cottage, Brunswick Road, WORTHING, Sussex BN11 3NQ. REF:Z

APPLE IIE with loads of spares incl. service manuals (massive), and cards, discs, motherboard, etc. Please write to: Mr N Woodbridge at 30, Hospital Street, NANTWICH, Cheshire CW5 5RP or phone 01270 628979 REF:T

Atari 800XL. Mint, 2 disc drives, Datacorder, loads of discs, plus spare keyboard. £40. Mr N Woodbridge, 30, Hospital Street, NANTWICH, Cheshire CW5 5RP. 01270 628979 REF:T

WANTED: Does anyone know of an Italian file for a spelling checker or Italian spellcheck program? Write to Mr AJ Howard, 65, Altyre Way, BECKENHAM, Kent BR3 3ED (and 8BIT) REF:O

CP/M SUPPORT: The Public Domain Software Library, Winscombe House, Beacon Road, CROWBOROUGH, Sussex. (Tel: 01892 663298) owns large volumes of CP/M software from all over the globe. Send A5 SAE for their CP/M catalogue. REF:Z

TRADING POST, Victoria Road, SHIFNAL, Shropshire, TF11 8AF (Tel: 01952 462135) have a variety of unused 8-bit computers available and even complete ones for spares from £10 and hardware and software for all 8-bits computers. REF:Z

OJ SOFTWARE, 273, Mossy Lea Road, Wroughtington, Nr WIGAN, Lancs WN6 9RN for 8-bit software and 3" discs Tel: 01257 421915 REF:Z

MISCELLANEOUS SMALL ADVERTS - contd

WANTED: Bootup software for an Apricot computer. The machine was made in 1983, has a start-up test ROM but needs a 3½" CP/M boot to bring it back to life. Any data will be useful. Contact Roger Henson, 88, Falkner Street, Gloucester, Glos GL1 4SJ. Tel: 01452 303390. REF:R

LATE ENTRIES AND OMISSIONS:

None - they're all included this time.

WACCO SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

For CPC and PCW users **WACCO** are still offering special 'bundle' prices on **Protext Office** and other programs. **Protext Office** provides all versions of **Protext** with powerful database and small business functions.

The price for **Protext Office** alone is £19.99. For a limited period there are three special price offers available

For CPC or PCW users:

1) All on disc - C/PM **Protext** with **Protext Office** and the **Proprint** CPC or PCW print enhancement program from **ComSoft**, all for £50. The programs are £59.97 if bought separately.

For CPC users:

2) **Protext** and **Proprint** on ROM, plus **Office** on disc, all for £55. (£68 if bought separately)

3) **Protext**, **Proprint**, plus **Office**, all on disc for £45. (£50.97 separately)

On Saturday 18th of May, Mark Tilley and Gavin Every (the original programmers/creators of **Protext**) and original owners of **Arnor Ltd** had a meeting with Brian Watson of **WACCO**. The outcome could be the best news for the CPC and PCW for ages:

1) Because contact is reestablished with **Protext's** original programmers further upgrades to the **Protext** suite are now possible. Suggestions for a wish list will be invited later (see item 3).

2) The help files and **Protext**-related programs produced by **Arnor's** former sales manager, Douglas Thompson, under

the name **Thompson Computing** are closer now to being re-released as Mark and Gavin are still in touch with him, and will approach him on our behalf. I have heard that verbal approval for their distribution has been given, but this should be obtained in writing to be sure.

3) There will shortly be a **Protext Users Club** established for all users of **Protext** on all formats (Amiga, CPC, PC, PCW, and ST - apparently the **Archimedes** version was not finished and, for now, is on indefinite hold). It is intended to start a web site AND bulletin board (the latter, of course, will be accessible by CPC and PCW users, among others).

4) **Arnor's** original newsletter **EXFILE** will shortly be restarted by **WACCO** from number 15 where it ended around 1988. The originals, which carried all sorts of good **Protext** stuff, will be re-published.

5) As a result of a better than expected reaction to the relaunch of **Protext Office** last month, **WACCO** are now able to re-release the last two items from the range which was rescued when **Arnor Ltd** went out of business last year. The following programs will be available from 15th June 1996 (subject to the arrival of the manuals on time!):

a) **Maxam 2** is the full CP/M version of **Arnor's** Z80 Editor, Assembler, and Monitor. With many more features than the CPC disc and Rom versions, this program, supplied on 3" or 3½" disc for CPCs or PCWs, is THE quintessential developer's tool for Z80 programmers. **Maxam 2** is supplied with a fully comprehensive 158 page ring-bound (lie-flat) manual and costs £25.

b) **Arnor C**. This is an implementation of the C standard as defined by Kernighan and Ritchie in "The C Programming Language". The C compiler produces fast, compact, intermediate code which runs under an interpreter written in Z80 machine code, designed specifically to run C on 8-bit computers. It is recommended that a potential user become familiar with the concepts and use of C and a booklist is supplied. C is £25.

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THE REAL WORLD: The pressures on my time of business, life and deadlines mean individual replies to letters cannot be guaranteed. I'm not (I hope) rude, I'm just a very busy person.

COMING NEXT TIME: Issue 13 of 8BIT may well be an E-mail/Internet special and I hope to start to clear the backlog of worthy submissions. Copy date is 15th July.

CONFIDENTIALITY: Details of 8BIT subscribers' will not be divulged without their express or strongly implied permission, and *never* for marketing purposes (especially to the person who has sent me three First Issues none of which, as far as I know, got finished or distributed). There are moves afoot by some groups to pool some of their information in the interests of contacting those who are still 8-bit users but may not now be in touch with a user group or other support. 8BIT is participating in the project, but readers' confidentiality will be respected by handling all confidential information 'in house.'

HELP: The advertising pages are the best places for appeals for (or offers of) help, and I assume that the appropriate 'permission to publish' is implied with any letter received unless otherwise stated.

LOW-COST REPAIRS: I have already had responses to last issue's request for those able to offer a small repairs service for a fair price. From next issue these will be published in a **Small Works** section of the small adverts pages. With the supplies of some older computer equipment (especially peripherals) now dwindling, it is unfortunately cheaper to replace the item than have it repaired through a commercial business but the *working* parts of the failed item are lost when it goes in the bin.

There is a golden opportunity for a network of low-cost repairers to do some of the small jobs such as replacing drive belts, fitting replacement drives (keeping the old ones for spares) and mending small faults economically. To minimise postage costs, especially on larger items like monitors and keyboards, I am prepared to offer a free courier service throughout East Anglia and London north of the Thames. Do we have any more volunteers? For now, there are some offers already distributed through the small adverts sections and in addition, Philip DiRichleau of the CPC user group WACCI has volunteered general assistance to find parts, repairers, and help generally. His time is precious so write in the first place to Ground Floor Flat, 121, Ripon Street, LINCOLN, Lincs LN5 7NG.

A good, though very commercial, source of parts for Spectrums, CPCs and PCWs (among others) are CPC Plc, Faraday Drive, Fullwood, PRESTON, Lancs PR2 4PP. You can phone them with your requirements on 01772 654455, or better still fax on 01772 654800 them with clearly quoted details of the make, model and serial number (where possible) of your computer.